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ALLOCATION OF AGENDA ITEMS TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE

Addendum

Letter dated 4 November 1993 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Third Committee

I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly, at the 50th plenary meeting of its forty-eighth session, held today, decided to allocate the following item to the Third Committee:

"Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts" (item 172).

(Signed) Samuel R. INSANALLY

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Agenda item 112

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 20 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to agenda item 112 entitled "International drug control", and particularly to the high-level plenary meetings to strengthen international cooperation in drug control, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a document from the Government of Mexico entitled, "Mexico and international cooperation against the production of, demand for and traffic in drugs".

I would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Manuel TELLO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the United Nations

Annex

MEXICO AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF, DEMAND FOR AND TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

INTRODUCTION

1. Scarcely five years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which was almost simultaneous with the establishment of specialized regional bodies like the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control, it was decided to include drug addiction, the illicit production of narcotic drugs, drug trafficking and related offences in the international agenda, because as a matter of concern for all countries, they have proven to have a resiliency beyond all expectations. In conjunction with other great world issues, they will have to be reckoned with in the twenty-first century, with as yet incalculable consequences.

2. The complexity of national and international factors, forces and processes of an economic, social, cultural, ideological, political and legal nature, and their interconnections and interactions, have a strong conditioning effect on control and containment efforts. Drug trafficking is in the process of defining its own economy, its own social structure and its own culture, and is fast becoming a separate political sphere that increasingly influences and weighs on society and the State, and goes so far as to threaten to subdue, absorb and conceivably displace both.

3. The most solid progress made thus far by the international community has been to arrive at a sophisticated conceptualization of the problem and to have devised certain solutions, although it is clear that there are still large lacunae in perception and theory.

4. There is a sufficiently clear grasp of the characteristics and effects of drug consumption, both as a force that destroys people and as the factor that acts as the driving force creating the problem and its many manifestations. Those manifestations can take such violent and sadly extreme forms as the addiction of newborns to cocaine; the so-called street children with permanent brain damage from drug inhalation; old people bereft of any hope other than the consumption of drugs; young adolescents who abandon their studies, their family and any possibility of being productive because of a devastating addiction either to "crack" or to a mixture of tobacco and residues of free-based cocaine; or men and women infected with AIDS through the sharing of needles for the intravenous injection of heroin, among many others.

5. The socio-economic conditions that help to generate supply are also quite clear, given the few options available to the producers, who in many though not all cases are peasants whose marginal existence and extreme poverty makes them a particularly vulnerable group, but who may also be people living in developed countries engaged in production with the most advanced technologies.

6. Countries experiencing certain effects of economic decline have little hope of suppressing illicit cultivation. Therefore it becomes necessary to find alternatives such as soft loans to encourage private investment in agricultural

activities so as to offer better living conditions to the marginal groups and lure them away from illicit drug cultivation, or securing adequate resources on a preferential basis from the international community.

7. Furthermore, everybody is aware of the harmful impact on the environment of illicit drug production, and even of its containment, since the toxic waste residue of plant processing, the use of chemicals to prepare it for shipment and the herbicides used by the authorities to eradicate illicit crops often upset the ecological balance.

8. Despite the relatively ample data and views on these questions, unusually cogent information has recently surfaced clarifying the three basic forces that drive the drug phenomenon: the availability and illegal flow of funds; the consistent linkage between the illicit arms traffic and the illicit drug traffic and the vast international networks of criminal organizations which, in some cases, in order to increase their power, penetrate or try to corrupt the government departments arrayed against them, and in others, collaborate with subversive political interests, creating conditions that make certain countries or regions truly ungovernable.

9. The need to deal with the drug phenomenon in a coordinated way at the international level is another of the realities that had to be faced and, to some extent, it has been met. However, in the recent past, the necessary international cooperation has been slow in coming because of a climate of conflict and recrimination between those countries in which, initially, the problem manifested itself almost exclusively as one of consumption and those in which its first appearance came in the form of production. This has made it impossible to prevent the problem, with all its features, from transcending national boundaries, as it has done, with a sharply negative effect on bilateral and regional relations.

10. Against this background, the United Nations drug control system as it now exists has been evolving regularly and systematically, drawing upon data and experience going back to 1909, the date of the first international conference for the control of drug trafficking, known as the "Opium Commission". The system has been gaining strength from the various international cooperation instruments that have been ratified over the years, culminating in the signing of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 1961 1/ and its 1972 Protocol 2/ and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. 3/

11. As an organization, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council as the central regulatory body in the field. The Commission, currently composed of 53 members elected by the Council, has served as a body which analyses the world drug situation and as an instrument for developing proposals to strengthen international drug control.

12. As early as the 1980s, it was considered necessary to set out clearly the formal commitments undertaken by the United Nations system or by the Member States to deal with drug abuse and drug trafficking, and to establish the specific parameters for coordinated international participation. For that purpose, the Secretary-General convened a conference to study those issues, the outcome of which was the signature of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. 4/ This

Convention, ratified to date by more than 100 countries, reflected the international consensus at the time and the concern of the participants to deal more effectively, in close coordination and with international support, multilaterally or bilaterally, with a phenomenon that was clearly becoming widespread.

13. In the first years of the 1990s, the rapid growth and complexity of the phenomenon became apparent, so that almost immediately it became necessary to update the information on the global situation presented by the drug problem in order to find more effective responses entailing greater commitment and financial support and political will.

14. As a result of that analysis, and for a more rational application of dispersed and sometimes contradictory United Nations efforts, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was set up by General Assembly mandate and on the basis of the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action 5/ adopted by the Assembly in 1990. The new Programme's principal task is to execute the provisions made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by coordinating all functions and aspects of drug control undertaken by the United Nations system and ensuring complementarity in the interests of greater efficiency.

15. Recognizing that these advances in the internal organization and structure of the United Nations was reflected in the Member States' need and will to enhance international cooperation and redouble national efforts in the interests of more effective drug control, the General Assembly officially proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 as the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. That time-frame was chosen for the adoption of sustained measures on the national, regional and international levels to promote the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and to seek modern and dynamic alternatives for resolving the problem.

16. The need for regular updating in the face of a constantly evolving reality is one of the most forceful lessons emerging from the development of the United Nations drug control system over the years. This is the changing face of the global phenomenon known as drug trafficking and the measures to control it should also be changing. Their original goal was to reduce, in the medium term, the speed with which it spread and, in the long term, to hold it in check through the legal, political and social controls that had served to contain so many other epidemics that have assailed humankind for centuries.

17. Mexico has been present at every historic moment of this gradual development. We have not remained isolated from international action, and within our own borders we are daily strengthening our drug control institutions.

I. NATIONAL POSITIONS OF PRINCIPLE

18. Mexico's drug control policy is founded on the humanitarian principle of protection of the individual, with strict adherence to law and supported by the legal, organizational and functional soundness of national institutions. The State makes use of the powers vested in it under its legal system to prevent and combat drug abuse, drug production and the traffic in drugs. It also attempts

to eliminate the causes that contribute to the degeneration and addiction of the individual by enforcing integrated prevention and control measures to curb drug abuse.

19. In this ever-evolving process, Mexico consistently pursues a broad objective with three major aspects:

(a) Firstly, Mexico assumes primary responsibility for the preservation of the physical and mental integrity of its population, which is imperilled by addiction to products that impair its potential for full, healthy development.

(b) Secondly, Mexico is committed to protecting its national political, economic and social institutions against the attacks of a powerful criminal machine which is attempting to pervert and corrupt the nobler aims of political, economic and social authorities.

(c) Thirdly, this policy is reflected in greater cooperation and solidarity in the sphere of international relations, whose stability would be jeopardized particularly as it is affected by interaction with countries that share its borders or its geographical region.

20. The Mexican State continuously strives to protect these values - health, security and cooperation - from being eroded, inevitably leading to damage to the structure of the State as such. Thus, Mexico believes it has a responsibility for ethical political conduct that it cannot shirk.

21. In that context the basic principles that govern Mexico's conduct in the fulfilment of its commitment to drug control are as follows:

(a) Recognition of the problem requires a holistic approach. It is as important to prevent the planting of the seeds, to destroy the laboratories, or to detect and intercept drug traffic as it is to fulfil the priority of reducing consumption. Each phase is important, and concerted efforts must be made at each stage.

(b) Drug trafficking is not an isolated problem, involving one or two nations. Its global dimensions demand an approach with a multilateral focus and the sharing of responsibility if we are to deal with its global, regional, bi-national and local manifestations by actions based on mutual respect and cooperation. A united front against drug addiction and the drug traffic will prosper only if firmly founded on good faith, legal principles, political will, capacity for cooperation and a recognition of the unique identity of each country and unrestricted respect for its sovereign rights, and not by attempts to impose hegemony, not by policies of mutual recrimination or by assigning blame on the basis of Manichean geographical formulas, which solve nothing.

(c) The third important area of effort involves education and assistance. Society and government work together to prevent and eradicate the consumption of psychotropic and narcotic drugs; the measure of our success will be our ability to create a genuinely drug-free culture. Broad participation by society is essential for the development of rehabilitation programmes, and for surmounting obstacles and trends that could have deleterious consequences if not dealt with in a timely fashion.

(d) The area of the legal and penal suppression of the drug traffic in all its phases is changing and we are endevouring to develop better legal, institutional and functional methods of drug control.

II. STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE PRODUCTION OF, DEMAND FOR AND TRAFFIC IN DRUGS AND DRUG-RELATED OFFENCES

22. Recognizing that despite the efforts of States to allocate a growing volume of human and financial resources to drug control programmes and policies, there has been a distinct increase in drug consumption both in countries traditionally identified as consumers and even in non-consumer countries and that the criminal organizations involved in the drug business are thriving and expanding, the high-level meetings of the General Assembly devoted to analysing the problem offer an unprecedented opportunity to launch an international time of reflection, which has become imperative given the seriousness of the situation.

23. That pause to reflect should be undertaken by the international community as a matter of urgency and with the support of all the expert sectors directly involved under the aegis of the United Nations as the first step in a thorough review and careful examination of the broad range of factors related to drug abuse control. The conclusions and recommendations emerging from this exercise could be considered subsequently with a view to mapping out possible international action to ensure that drug abuse control yields substantive and practical results.

24. There follow suggestions for some priority factors that might be considered with the object of initiating an international period of reflection.

A. Reduction of demand

25. Since drug consumption is the driving force that generates drug production and trafficking, the reduction in demand becomes the radical - albeit long-term - solution of the problem. The most effective means of reducing drug production and trafficking is the gradual reduction in current and future drug consumption.

26. In devising new international strategies consideration should be given to the development of global integrated prevention programmes that promote the following objectives through community action:

(a) To discourage the use of narcotic drugs, primarily the most addictive substances, through education in the schools and in the community;

(b) To consider the advisability at some future date of reviewing the differentiation now being made among drugs in order to satisfy the criteria laid down by the World Health Organization (WHO) and by the medical and penal experts, in order to reduce the illicit drug market;

(c) To institute treatment based on the timely detection of the problem and take measures for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of addicts.

B. Effectiveness of international efforts to eradicate illicit cultivation

27. Although the cultivation of stimulants is a fact in many countries irrespective of their level of development, illicit cultivation is frequently concentrated in the least developed. Consequently, they should be presented with the alternative to the actual eradication of illicit cultivation, namely, improvement in the living conditions of the people who are driven by extreme poverty to produce and market drug crops. That improvement can be achieved by implementing integrated rural development programmes based on international development cooperation and the principle of shared responsibility.

28. That is the traditional approach, complemented by the recognition that the countries identified as consumer countries are also producers of illicit chemical and pharmaceutical substances, inputs for drug production and substantial amounts of marijuana. Stricter administrative control and sanctions against producers and distributors should be rigorously applied.

C. Compatibilization of national legislations

29. In view of the inadequacy of a legal framework for suppressing certain activities related to drug trafficking and drug-related crimes, it is vitally important so far as possible and in conformity with domestic law, to bring into harmony, the national legislations of countries and to ensure that they are compatible with the relevant international instruments in force.

30. It is also essential to create new internationally compatible legal provisions for measuring and controlling the tremendous resources available to drug traffickers acknowledging that the huge profits from the drug trade constitute a key factor in the continuing success of drug trafficking, making it imperative to eliminate the drug market and the resources that feed it. Those legal provisions would help to record the movements and final destination of those huge profits by containing:

(a) The mechanisms for financing, processing and laundering drug-related money;

(b) The operations of the networks for purchasing and trafficking in weapons and explosives;

(c) The shipment of chemical precursor substances to clandestine laboratories;

(d) The processing, transport and distribution of the drugs.

D. The fight against organized crime

31. With the globalization of life patterns as manifested in trade, migratory movements, cultural activities, communications, transportation, economic, financial and so many other activities, there has been an upgrading in the organization of criminal pursuits.

32. To cope with that situation, national and international systems governing health, prisons, crime control, financing and banking must be revised and modernized. The conclusion of bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance, extradition, the execution of sentences and money laundering should be encouraged. Judicial structures and systems of delivering justice must be adapted and the mechanisms for the exchange of strategic data must be strengthened so as more effectively to deal with transnational crime networks.

E. New financing mechanisms to improve international cooperation

33. It has been said that one of the obstacles to greater progress in dealing with the drug problem is the shortage of financial resources both for the operation of projects agreed upon in multilateral agencies and for the development of national programmes for the prevention, treatment, interception of in-transit drugs or support for integrated rural development programmes that remove the incentives for illicit cultivation. The enormous profits from international crime that are easily transferable from country to country and the quasi-total freedom the criminals enjoy to spend that money stand in stark contrast to the lack of resources for the war on drugs. Unless that contradiction is resolved, there is little prospect that United Nations regional and national programmes will be successful.

34. The international financial institutions, at the urgent request of the General Assembly, should support the existing UNPCID mechanisms without discrimination to back up what countries consider to be their priority anti-drug programmes.

35. A positive step that might be taken in that connection would be to promote the formation of civic associations, foundations or trusts that would draw on funds provided by donations and tax-deductible contributions from individuals, social groups, public and private agencies, non-governmental organizations and multilateral organizations dedicated to action in support of the investigation, design, application and evaluation of methods and techniques for prevention and rehabilitation and concerned with the drug problem in all its many aspects.

Notes

1/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.

2/ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

3/ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

4/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.1 and 3.

5/ Resolution S-17/2, annex.

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Letter dated 26 October 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the statement made by the representative of Albania in the Third Committee on 15 October 1993 on the agenda items "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and "Right of peoples to self-determination". Regarding the part of the statement referring to the alleged violations of the rights of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija, upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to state the following.

The prevailing situation in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija is complex and burdened with numerous problems. However, the major part of the statement of the representative of Albania in the Third Committee does nothing to shed any light to expose their essence. The statement also contains a series of untrue allegations and qualifications.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija, as a national minority within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is equal in its rights and duties to all other citizens of the Republic. Under the Constitution, Kosovo and Metohija enjoys the status of autonomous province with territorial and cultural autonomy. Those aspects of autonomy are granted to the province of Kosovo and Metohija as an entity and not to the Albanian national minority. Therefore, all members of the Albanian national minority are entitled, within this entity, to all minority rights provided for by international legal acts and principles and by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which unreservedly affirms those principles.

The allegation that the Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija is "totally prevented from the social life" is absolutely untrue. What is evident is that, under the mounting pressure of separatists, the Albanian population is exercising self-imposed exclusion and is boycotting the legitimate authorities.

The allegation that information in the Albanian language has been abolished can be dismissed easily by the fact that there are seven daily newspapers and weekly magazines that come out freely across Kosovo and Metohija in the Albanian language. Those are funded by private Albanian sources without any interference by the State or any other authorities of the Republic of Serbia regarding their editing policies or circulation (95,000 copies). There are also 14 hours of radio and television programmes in the Albanian language on a daily basis.

The allegation that the Albanian population is prevented access to health care is absurd. Out of a total number of employees in the public health-care institutions in this Province, the Albanians represent 71 per cent. Furthermore, out of a total number of patients treated in those institutions, 81 per cent are Albanians. This figure almost fully reflects the demographic structure in the province, i.e. the share of the Albanian population. According to official data, ethnic Albanians account for 84 per cent of the Province's total population, not 92 per cent as the Albanian representative alleged in his statement.

In the field of education, all citizens of Albanian nationality are entitled to education in their own language. It is a fact that many Albanians withdraw their children from public schools but they are certainly not doing that for lack of education in their own language but because they boycott the legal educational programmes and institutions of the Republic of Serbia. There are as many as 966 elementary schools where education is conducted or guaranteed in the Albanian language. It is an inalienable right of each State to have a uniform education system in its whole territory on the basis of the valid curricula. What lies behind the unfounded accusation that in Kosovo and Metohija education was prevented in the Albanian language is obviously an attempt to establish in this Province an illegal educational system independent from the Republic of Serbia, in order to facilitate the policy of secession.

Fully aware of the sensitivity of the problems in the field of education, the Government of the Republic of Serbia recently offered to the representatives of the Albanian national minority to prepare draft education programmes to be subsequently verified by the competent Republic authorities. That proposal was also rejected, evidently because the Albanian representatives are committed to total exclusion of the Albanian minority from the Republic of Serbia in this area and in other areas as well.

The United Nations should be engaged more efficiently in the resolution of the problems in Kosovo and Metohija, but least of all in the way envisaged and advocated by the Albanian side. The role of the United Nations should be to separate clearly the human rights problems in Kosovo and Metohija from illegitimate demands by the Albanian national minority directed against the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia based on the plans for the creation of the so-called Kosovo Republic.

The right of peoples to self-determination is truly indivisibly linked with the generally accepted values by the international community but it can under no criteria be granted to a national minority, including the Albanian one in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The attempt to acquire such a status with the assistance of international public and international organizations represents not only flagrant violation of the norms of international law but callous

manipulation and twisting of historical facts. Kosovo and Metohija, as an entity or a geographical term, has never been a part of the Albanian State. It has always been an integral part of the Serbian State territory or was under the rule of foreign conquerors. Moreover, until recently, the Serbian population in the region was predominant. However, after the Second World War this balance was changed to the detriment of the Serbian population. In that period, owing to ethnic cleansing as well, the percentage of the Serbian population dropped from 45 per cent to a mere 10 per cent today.

The Yugoslav crisis has emerged owing to the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, but not because it was "an artificial entity". This was rather due to the secessionist policies pursued by four out of six of the former republics, with assistance from abroad. The Albanian separatists' attempt to portray Kosovo and Metohija as a constituent element of the former Yugoslav federation is not in accordance with historical facts. Even in the 1974 Constitution, this province was an integral part of the Republic of Serbia and thus could not possibly be a constituent part of the federal State. Since 1989, the Province of Kosovo and Metohija has undergone major institutional changes. However, its autonomous status has not been brought into question, then or now. In that year, Kosovo and Metohija was deprived of the parastatal attributes that this Province acquired under the 1974 Constitution. The sole reason for such a move was to prevent extreme Albanian nationalism - in the period of general democratization of the country in the post-communist era - from embarking upon the path of secession.

However, the individual rights of ethnic Albanians, or their collective rights stemming from their status of national minority, were not in any way jeopardized.

Instead of lamenting over their fate, which has objectively in no way been threatened, the international community would do best to exert a more energetic influence on the members of the Albanian minority in Kosovo and Metohija, to give up for good their goals that have no international legal justification. Most questionable of all those goals is precisely the realization of the right to self-determination, to which the Albanian national minority is not entitled. Even if in the background of such a goal there was not an open tendency towards secession, it would have been inadmissible from the point of view of international law. In that regard, invoking the results of the 1991 Albanian referendum conducted in Kosovo and Metohija, as a test of the will of its citizens, does not have any legal or political basis. This referendum violated, inter alia, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia as well as international documents on the rights of national minorities. It is totally absurd to talk about the occupation regime in the Republic of Serbia and the military occupation of Kosovo and Metohija, since no country in the world can possibly occupy its own territory.

On the contrary, speaking of violent methods for achieving political ends, it is the Albanian extremists that resort to them, as can be seen from their repeated attacks on the law enforcement officers and the Army of Yugoslavia. For its part, the units of the Army of Yugoslavia stationed in Kosovo and Metohija successfully maintain peace in the Province and the stability in the region without any discriminatory actions towards anyone, as is evidenced in the report of the fact-finding mission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation

in Europe (CSCE). The law enforcement officers do not terrorize the Albanian population. They maintain law and public order and prevent crime, resorting to force only in self-defence.

In assessing the situation in Kosovo and Metohija, one has to bear in mind that the basis for the realization of the rights of national minorities in the first place is their loyalty towards the country in which they live. That is also the major premise of all international documents that regulate this matter. However, a large portion of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija persistently resorts to methods of civil disobedience. They boycotted the census and the elections that would have enabled them to enjoy their rights and fulfil their duties through legal bodies and institutions.

It is important to emphasize that the international community should rein in Albanian secessionism in Kosovo and Metohija as soon as possible. As long as hopes simmer in the hearts of the secessionists for the fulfilment of illegal secession, it is difficult to expect that they will give up their goals. Thus, the solutions to the problems in this Province will be postponed indefinitely. The only way to overcome this crisis is the unconditional renouncing of those goals and the Albanian minority's subsequent incorporation in the social and political life of the Republic of Serbia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects more active support from the United Nations in that respect.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 107 and 108 (a).

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 27 October 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In connection with the statement made by the Muslim representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Third Committee of the General Assembly on 18 October 1993 on the agenda item "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", which is replete with untrue, malicious qualifications and unsubstantiated allegations, I have the honour to state the following.

The Muslim representative pretends to represent Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, in view of the situation on the ground in this former Yugoslav Republic, the structure of the participants in the Geneva negotiations where representatives of all three peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina participate equally as three delegations, as well as the fact that all three sides in Bosnia and Herzegovina have accepted the constitutional arrangements, deprives him of the legitimacy to represent also the Serbs and Croats in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Muslim representative obviously overlooks the latest position of the major international factors, including even the United Nations, that what is at stake in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a civil war, which negates all charges of alleged outside aggression by the "Serbian and Montenegrin forces". However, not the slightest reference is made to the presence of the regular units of the Army of the Republic of Croatia, on which there are United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reports and whose withdrawal has been demanded in the resolutions of the Security Council.

If the Muslim representative wishes to engage in the assessment of genocide against the Muslims and Catholics and pretends to speak on behalf of the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the question is why he does not mention the repeated genocide against the Serbs about which there is growing awareness in the world

public. How does he explain the fact that the Muslims and Catholics have recently been at war and that the Bosnian Muslims have been fighting each other lately?

We hope that the figure of "2.2 million displaced Bosnians" referred to by the Muslim representative also includes 250,000 Serbs and over 50,000 Muslims who found refuge in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the alleged aggressor in Bosnia. That would be the first time in history that the victims of aggression found shelter in the aggressor State.

In regard to the destruction of cultural landmarks and religious objects, in the interest of truth we would like to remind the Muslim representative that in Bosnia and Herzegovina alone, over 100 sacral facilities of the Serbian Orthodox Church have been destroyed, mostly in areas not affected by the war. Mr. Sacirbey intentionally conceals not only the present atrocities suffered by the Serbs at the hands of the Muslims but also the fact that by systematically razing the monuments marking the places where horrendous genocide was committed against the Serbs in the Second World War, an attempt is made to wipe out the very memory of those events.

It is also evident that in blaming "certain policies" for the tragic humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Muslim representative accuses precisely the Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic, who, by refusing to sign the latest peace proposal, is directly responsible for such a situation. As for the humanitarian situation, we would like to point out that the UNPROFOR reports unambiguously indicate that the conflicts between the Croats and the Muslims, as well as the Muslims opening fire on UNPROFOR convoys, are reasons why the humanitarian assistance is not reaching those in need.

The international community is investing efforts to put an end to the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in a peaceful way and through political negotiations. Those efforts would certainly not benefit from lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina, considered to be "immoral" by the Muslim representative. Invoking the right to self-defence would make sense only in case of aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but in the case of civil war providing arms to one side only does not have any political or moral justification.

The Muslim representative is certainly well aware of the fact that the representatives of the Serbian and Croatian people have left the "democratically elected Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was supposed to maintain a 500-year-old tradition of pluralism and multi-culture". Therefore the logical question arises, on whose behalf and with what goals in mind is this Government acting? It is incomprehensible to invoke that tradition, which for the Serbian people in those areas is connected to the memories of slavery under the Ottoman Empire. Thus, any reference to Bosnian statehood of that time is inconceivable, which is confirmed by historical facts since the "Bosnian pashadom" was just one of the administrative units of the Ottoman Empire, without any particular autonomy, and it is therefore surprising to take the period of the Turkish occupation of the then sovereign Serbian States as a basis for statehood. The thesis of the multi-cultural interweaving of life in those areas is brought into question also by the words of the Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andric, who said that in Bosnia "three clocks are showing three different times", as well as by the

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INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 27 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the paragraphs referring to drug abuse and illicit trafficking (see annex) from the Communiqué of the Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, which took place in Cyprus from 21 to 25 October 1993.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 112.

(Signed) A. SHAMBOS
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

Annex

EXTRACT ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING FROM THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HELD IN CYPRUS FROM 21 TO 25 OCTOBER 1993

40. The Committee [of the Whole] noted with concern the ever-growing problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, which had now spread to countries which had neither the experience nor the infrastructure and other resources to deal with it.

41. The Committee recommended that the Heads of Government urge all Commonwealth Governments that were not party to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to adhere to the Convention and enact the necessary domestic legislation as soon as possible; to support the United Nations drug control programmes and enhance international cooperation against drug trafficking; to adopt the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force as appropriate; to take advantage of the advisory and assistance facilities available in the Dublin Group of donor countries; and to adopt appropriate domestic legislation to trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking and money laundering.

42. The Committee asked the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and other relevant bodies, including regional organizations, to continue to organize appropriate training and other activities to counter aspects of both supply of and demand for illicit drugs. It urged member countries to develop common bilateral or multilateral approaches to deal with illicit trafficking and to implement the Commonwealth Scheme for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

43. The Committee noted that criminality, violence and disruption of the social, economic and political fabric were closely associated with drug abuse and trafficking. It recommended that Commonwealth law ministers be invited to give priority attention to legislative programmes which would ensure that their countries were in a position to meet the threat posed domestically and to render legal assistance to other countries in respect of any drug trafficking offenses.

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fact that the Muslim fundamentalists tore down the monument dedicated to the great writer who won the Nobel Prize for his work depicting the suffering of the non-Muslim population in Bosnia during the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

As for the accusations concerning the human rights situation and the alleged discrimination against the Albanians, Hungarians and Muslims in Kosovo and Metohija, Vojvodina and the so-called "Sandzak", the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) mission of long duration has had a chance to examine the situation in the areas. According to our information, it toned down and denied previous unsubstantiated reports and charges advanced by numerous ad hoc missions and non-governmental organizations. Consequently, the termination of the mission's work in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia did not come about as an attempt to hide facts, but on the basis of the legitimate request of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to maintain cooperation with the CSCE on the footing of equality, which was rejected by the CSCE. In the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, there are no instances of racial discrimination against Hungarians or any other minority, which is reflected in the CSCE report. The situation in the so-called "Sandzak" is completely calm and without any nationally motivated incidents. The Muslims in this area are fully incorporated in all spheres of life and the majority of them do not support the militant policies of the SDA party (Party of Democratic Action) and its leader Sulejman Ugljanin, who is a fugitive from law because his scheme on armed rebellion in the region has been discovered and arms and ammunition for the violent overthrow of the legal authority have been impounded. Speaking of "militant nationalism" in the so-called "Sandzak", it should be emphasized that a large number of the most militant Muslims actively engaged in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina were recruited precisely from this region.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our expectation that in the process of ethnic division of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the representatives of the will of the three constituent peoples will, within their entities, respect the principles of pluralism, democracy and multi-ethnic societies. The representatives of the Serbian people in Bosnia and Herzegovina have, on a number of occasions, confirmed their readiness to do so, and recently demonstrated such readiness convincingly by reaching an agreement on lasting peace with the representatives of the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia of the Republic of Bosnia - that portion of the Muslim people who, unlike the extreme advocates of the continuation of the war, aspire to peace and the restoration of severed ties between the peoples.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 107.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.